



NATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE

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WEATHER & CROPS



Week Ending: July 31, 2011

Number: 21

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WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING JULY 31, 2011

Extremely hot weather conditions dried up pastures and hay land throughout the state of Virginia. Days suitable for field work were 6.4. Corn is stressed along with soybeans due to the heat and lack of moisture. Most early planted corn has dented. Dairy farmers are preparing to harvest corn silage. Tobacco farmers are topping their crop and irrigation is taking place where there is water availability and room in the budgets. Peanuts are starting to peg. Cotton is dropping squares and bolls in some fields due to heat. Vegetable growers continued to harvest sweet corn, tomatoes, melons, eggplant, peppers, and other summer crops. Pumpkins are growing and beginning to vine up in some areas.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
July 3, 2011	12	29	55	4
July 10, 2011	10	18	68	4
July 17, 2011	9	31	59	1
July 24, 2011	10	43	45	2
July 31, 2011	18	36	43	3

SUBSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
July 3, 2011	11	31	57	1
July 10, 2011	9	24	64	3
July 17, 2011	8	34	57	1
July 24, 2011	11	38	50	1
July 31, 2011	14	39	46	1

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Virginia Cooperative Extension Service

Virginia Cooperative Extension
A partnership of Virginia Tech and Virginia State University www.ext.vt.edu

Virginia Tech



Virginia State University



VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY

CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	7	19	32	40	2
Livestock	2	5	24	54	15
Hay, Other	8	12	34	44	2
Hay, Alfalfa	1	8	31	53	7
Corn	3	10	31	44	12
Soybeans	0	7	35	46	12
Tobacco, Flue-cured	0	3	54	31	12
Tobacco, Burley	0	2	14	75	9
Tobacco, Dark Fire-cured	0	5	58	32	5
Peanuts	0	0	34	43	23
Cotton	0	0	13	67	20
Summer Potatoes	0	0	50	50	0
Apples, All	0	0	13	65	22
Peaches	0	8	21	61	10
Grapes	0	0	8	91	1

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Silked	90	83	95	90
Corn Dough	50	30	68	56
Corn Dent	20	7	38	22
Soybeans Blooming	51	41	59	49
Soybeans Setting Pods	21	9	18	15
Flue-cured Tobacco Harvested	11	0	10	11
Peanuts Pegged	77	75	59	79
Cotton Squaring	100	95	88	93
Cotton Setting Bolls	68	50	61	70
Summer Potatoes Harvested	89	75	93	78
Summer Apples Harvested	40	33	50	37
Peaches Harvested	40	38	50	46

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING JULY 31, 2011

City	Temperature						Growing degree days (modified base 50) 1/		Precipitation				
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg. dep. from normal *	Mar. 1 to Jul. 30	Mar. 1 to Jul. 30 normal	Last Week	Since Jun. 1	Jun. 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	95	68	98	66	82	7	2482	2247	0.02	6.17	-1.84	20.96	-5.24
Norfolk	93	76	98	74	84	5	2893	2459	4.72	14.17	5.53	26.17	-1.09
Richmond	97	75	103	73	86	8	2802	2443	0.41	6.63	-1.35	22.45	-3.35
Roanoke	95	72	99	66	83	6	2591	NA	0.91	7.27	-0.22	23.64	-1.77
Wash/Dulles	95	73	103	68	84	8	2483	NA	0.37	3.98	-3.52	21.62	-2.67

* Normal based on 1971-2000 data. Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>. Source: USDA, NASS, Virginia Field Office.

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY

Comments are based on comments reported by extension agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.

NORTHERN

CLARKE (Jacob Grove)

Hot dry conditions are cooking pastures and hay fields.

FREDERICK (Jeanette R. Smith)

We have had severe heat indexes this past week. Extreme heat on 7/22 - 7/24. Pastures and hay lands are getting very dry. There was a severe thunderstorm last Friday evening. No damage to crops that I have heard.

ROCKINGHAM (Matthew Yancey)

Conditions are quite dry in most areas. Most corn is struggling, beans appear okay for now, but as more come along in maturity, moisture will be in greater demand.

WESTERN

ROANOKE (Sheri Dorn)

Rain is very scattered throughout area. Temperatures and humidity remain higher than average. Overnight temperatures remain warm and very dry conditions.

CENTRAL

AMELIA (Joan D Poore)

Another hot week, but not quite as much as the week before. No thunderstorms passed through this past week. By the end of the week, corn and hay were showing signs of stress from the heat and lack of moisture. Dairy farmers are beginning to harvest corn silage. Sunday morning brought overcast and light showers over most of the county. Averaging 2 to 3 tenths.

APPOMATTOX (Bruce Jones)

Dark tobacco farmers are topping their tobacco. Tobacco is being irrigated as water availability and budgets allow. We had a plentiful rainfall in Appomattox on July 31st which should help all crops. Soybeans are being sprayed for weeds.

CENTRAL (continued)

CAROLINE (McGann Saphir)

Extreme heat and lack of rain for the last six days has taken a toll on the soybean crop, but overall things look pretty good. The corn crop in particular has done well, getting much needed rain at critical times. We need to continue to get moisture to insure a good soybean crop. Things have dried out significantly since last week's rains and the forecast for this week is not much better. One good aspect to the recently dry conditions is to give hay producers a chance to cut and cure another cutting of hay. This year is shaping up to be a very good hay year, with about three cuttings in the barn so far. Vegetable farmers continue to harvest a very good crop of sweet corn, tomatoes, melons, eggplant, peppers, and other summer crops. Pumpkins are up and growing and starting to vine up. Squash bugs have been prevalent in young pumpkin stands and control methods have been employed in most pumpkin fields in the area.

CHESTERFIELD (Joan D Poore)

Crops are showing signs of stress from the heat. No thunderstorms last week to bring any rain. The heat continued but not quite as bad as the week before. Friday however set a record, but cooled down for Saturday and Sunday. Sunday morning was overcast with a few light showers.

HANOVER (Jim Tate)

Continued hot and humid conditions have taken a toll on a lot of crops. Over the weekend the central and eastern part of the county got rain and from all indications lots of rain. Roads and ditches are full at Hanover courthouse and there was heavy rain in Ashland. The western end of the county is very dry and hot.

PRINCE EDWARD

Recent rains over the weekend brought much needed moisture to the area. Corn silage harvest is underway. Pastures remain in less than ideal condition due to drought conditions.

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)

Comments are based on comments reported by extension agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.

EASTERN

ESSEX (Keith Balderson)

Most of the area received some rainfall during the week, but soil moisture is slowly being depleted. The corn crop should be good, and the soybean crop has potential if rains continue in August and September. Hot weather has been tough on cattle.

MIDDLESEX (David Moore)

Another timely rain this week has made things perk up a little. High temperatures continue to take their toll on soybeans and late corn. Most early planted corn has dented. Yield potential looks average to above average. Soybeans can be really good if showers continue. Vegetables continue to look OK. Cantaloupe, sweet corn, squash, peppers, and tomatoes continue to be harvested and quality is good. Some problems with diseases in vegetables due to rain, heat and humidity. Most field work is winding down. Some late applications of herbicide on soybeans. Scouting has begun for soybean insects. Field days and more hot weather ahead. Stay Cool!

SOUTHWESTERN

SCOTT (Scott Jerrell)

Extremely high temperatures this past week and some scattered thunderstorms have made planning difficult on the farm. For the most part, any moisture received has quickly disappeared due to the heat. Tobacco crop looks good but there are some target spots and aphids appearing. Vegetables are suffering heat stress - irrigation supplying water but not helping with the heat. Cattle producers are working with veterinarians in developing heifers for November sale.

SMYTH (Andy Overbay)

Hot but drier weather lead to an excellent week for hay making across the county. Many fields could be easily baled 24 hours after being cut. Corn continues to look very strong heading into the final push towards developing ears.

SOUTHEASTERN

BRUNSWICK (Cynthia L. Gregg)

Rain on Sunday was welcomed even with thunder, lightning and periods of heavy downpours. The crops are looking good considering the heat and humidity. Flue cure tobacco is being pulled. Several pond weed issues are coming into the office as well.

PRINCE GEORGE (Scott Reiter)

Much needed rainfall fell early in the week. Most of the county received at least 1 inch with some areas receiving up to 6 inches. Fieldwork resumed later in the week with second cutting hay being made and some herbicide applications to soybeans. Most growers are optimistic about this year's crop potential.

SOUTHAMPTON (John Rudy)

Recent rains keeping crops stable. Peanuts starting to peg. Cotton dropping squares and bolls in some fields due to heat. Pastures are fair and not getting time to replace growth. Soybeans on heavy soil doing well, double crop beans are short due to lack and moisture. Corn is dropping ears and drying down rapidly. Harvest should be earlier than normal.

SUSSEX (Kelvin Wells)

Recent showers have made crops look very good. Growers continue to scout cotton for insect pests and applying growth regulator to the crop.

CHESAPEAKE CITY (Watson Lawrence)

Heat returned to Chesapeake this week. However we have soil moisture now and crops are doing better than a week ago. Many full season soybeans have been slowed by the dry conditions since planting and double cropped soybeans are catching up. Plenty of vegetables on hand at local farm markets.



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